

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 7:00 PM**

Call to Order

Mayor Art Riddile called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Carey
Councilor Mariscal
Councilor Hazelton
Councilor Copeland
Mayor A. Riddile
Councilor Leland
Councilor G Riddile

Absent None

Also present at the meeting were Town Clerk Mindy Andis, Administrator Dave Reynolds, Public Works Director John Wenzel, Police Chief Chuck Burros, Town Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers, and members of the public.

Meeting Notice

Clerk Andis verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with resolution TC 2024-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest

Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes

Citizen Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no Citizen Comments

Consultant Reports

Consultant Attorney – not present

Consultant Engineer – not present

Items for Consideration

Presentation Roundabout Design Review – Zehren & Associates – Pedro Campos

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds introduced Landscaping Architect Pedro Campos to the council.

Mr. Campos reviewed and explained the roundabout landscaping project to the council (Exhibit A).

Mayor A. Riddile asked what happened to the trees on the south side of plaza parking lot. Public Works Director Wenzel said his department was able to move three trees to the

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 18, 2024

public works facility and rest of the trees were not able to be saved due to utility lines. Councilor Carey said there are three non-native plants as part of the landscaping, the plants can grow here but they are not native (Russian Sage, Silvermound Sage, Feather Reed Grass). She had suggest using Leadplant for Russian Sage, Fringed Sage for Silvermond Sage and Arizona or Idaho Fescue for Feather Reed Grass. The reason for the change is because the non-native plants will not attract the native pollinators.

Councilor Leland asked Mr. Campos if there is a budget for the project. Mr. Campos said he has a preliminary budget, but it doesn't take into account the monuments.

Councilor Leland asked Mr. Campos about wayfaring signs for downtown. Mr. Campos said he is happy to integrate some wayfaring signs into the project. Councilor Carey asked if the gabion structures could be used for the wayfaring signs. Administrator Reynolds said yes, there would be an opportunity to use the gabions.

Update – Police Department – Chief Chuck Burrows

Administrator Reynolds presented Chief Burrows with a 10-year plaque. The council thanked Chief Burrows for his time of service.

Chief Burrows updated the council on what has happened in the Police Department. He said the department is fully staffed, however there is one officer who is out due to an injury and won't be able to return to full service for approximately four months. Chief Burrows is looking at hiring a 12th officer and possible use that officer as a code enforcement officer as well.

Chief Burrows said he now has five training instructors in the department. The officers not only train in the department but also are instructors at Colorado Mountain Collage (CMC). Chief Burrows updated the council on the new equipment the department has received through grant funding.

Staff Introductions: Detective Mike Jones, Officer John O'Neill and Officer Josh Brooks

Chief Burrows introduced each of the new officers. Each officer gave a brief background on themselves. The council welcomed the new officers.

Presentation – West Mountain Regional Housing Coalition – April Long

Administrator Reynolds introduced Executive Director April Long. Ms. Long updated the town council on the work being done to address housing shortages throughout our area. Ms. Long touched on the history of the coalition, the need for attention to housing local concerns, and some of the projects that the coalition may be targeting, as well some of the programs the coalition is trying to launch. As the Council may recall, the WMRHC is made up of member municipalities and local organizations from Aspen to Parachute and into Eagle County. Currently the Town of New Castle is not a paying member but has expressed an interest in remaining aware of the coalition's work in our area, and leaving the door open to membership in the future.

Consider Shoshone Water Funding

Administrator Reynolds reminded the council of the presentation given by Amy Moyer from the Colorado River District during the council's June 18, 2024, meeting. Ms. Moyer's presentation focused on the preservation of Shoshone Water Rights for the continued benefit of the Colorado River Valley. Ms. Moyer discussed the history of the Shoshone Water Rights and updated the council on the pending sale of water rights and how that sale might affect our region. Following Ms. Moyer's presentation, the council briefly discussed how the Town of New Castle might assist the Colorado River District in the purchase of the Shoshone Water Rights. The council asked staff to bring this item back for further consideration and to make recommendations concerning possible funding amounts.

After a brief discussion the council approved \$100,000 towards the Shoshone Water Rights. The funding would not need to be given until the end of 2025. The town would need to provide a commitment in 2024. Councilor Leland suggested Ms. Moyer come back to council in six months to give an update.

Consider Playground Equipment Funding

Administrator Reynolds said during the regular town council meeting held on June 18, 2024, the council heard a presentation by members of Kathryn Senior Elementary School PTAC. During the meeting PTAC members asked the council if the town would be willing to assist them in partnering for grant funding for the project for playground equipment for new *Accessible Play Equipment* in a play area behind Kathryn Senior Elementary School. The council agreed to be partners in future grant endeavors for this project and then went further and expressed a willingness to help by committing town funds toward the project. Administrator Reynolds said staff would be willing to help with the grant writing a FMLD grant, and RE-2 School District would be the fiscal agent.

The council had agreed to give \$20,000 towards the grant funding.

Recess the Town Council Meeting, Convene as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to recess the Town Council Meeting and Convene the Local Liquor Licensing Authority. Councilor G. Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider an Application from the New Castle Recreation Department for a Special Event Liquor License for the Community Market on July 25, 2024, and August 29, 2024

Town Clerk Mindy Andis said the event was something the town had been doing for a number of years. She said it was a way for the two liquor stores in town to be included in the community market. Each store will host one sampling garden. Clerk Andis said that the recreation department would handle both events. The samplings will take place on July 26, 2024 and again on August 29, 2024.

Clerk Andis said that the application was complete and had been properly noticed.

Consider an Application from the New Castle Recreation Department for a Special Events Liquor License for Burning Mountain Festival on September 13, 2024 & September 14, 2024

Clerk Andis told the council that the application was for Burning Mountain Festival that will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14, 2024. Again, she said the event will be as in past years with the Clerk's Office staffing the alcohol tent along with two volunteers. She said that the Clerk's Office staff were all responsible service of alcohol certified, and that the alcohol will be in the gazebo, and drink tickets sold at a different location. Clerk Andis said that the application was complete and had been properly noticed.

Consider an Application from the New Castle Recreation Department for a Special Events Liquor License for Chili Cook-off on December 6, 2024

Clerk Andis said the New Castle Recreation Department is requesting a special event liquor license for Chili Cook-off and Mac & Cheese Competition on December 6, 2024, in Burning Mountain Park. The application requests a permit time from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. The event will be held from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. The extra time is to allow for set up and teardown. Town Staff will be serving and are Tips trained. Staff recommend approval of the special event liquor license. She said that the recreation department is waiting on the final approval from Garfield County Health Department for one food truck. No license will be issued until the town receives the approval.

MOTION: Councilor G. Riddile made a motion to approve the special events liquor license from the New Castle Recreation Department for the New Castle Community Market event on July 26, 2024, and August 29, 2024, Burning Mountain Festival on September 13, 2024 & September 14, 2024, and Chili Cook-off on December 6, 2024, and that service hours will be as stated in the application with amendment to the map for the Community Market. Councilor Carey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjourn the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, Reconvene the Town Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to recess the Local Liquor Licensing Authority and Convene the Town Council Meeting. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen requests it, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda.

June 18, 2024, Minutes

June Bills \$820,718.17

EAT Bistro & Drinks H&R Liquor License Renewal

RG Lakota Golf OPS, LLC Liquor License Renewal

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynolds said the Ice Cream Social was a big success and thanked everyone who participated in the event. He reviewed briefly with the council some of the comments that were made to council during the event. Administrator Reynolds said several of the organizations who had participated in the event remarked to him that they appreciated the opportunity to be part of the event and would like to be invited back again. Administrator Reynolds said he is working on a message that will go out to the public regarding CVRI Filing 11. Administrator Reynolds said Dirty Hog Dash is Saturday, July 20, 2024, at VIX Park. He said the Recreation Department needs more help with Dirty Hog Dash. Administrator Reynolds reminded the council about Rides & Reggae August 2, 2024, and August 3, 2024. He said the DOLA representative reached out to the town. There is a new state program where the state is creating a map of the trails and putting a pin on any town or city that will be having an event on any trails the week of Rides and Reggae. DOLA would like to put Rides and Reggae on the map as an event. Administrator Reynolds said he and Administrative Assistant Rochelle Firth had gone to a manager’s meeting in Grand Junction. He said there were discussions regarding staffing, salaries and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Administrator Reynolds explained how other towns are using AI in different departments. He said Town Planner Paul Smith was approached by a company called Placer AI. The company has sold software to neighboring towns. The company created software which helps track what is happening in the community by tracking the traffic in the community. With the program you can narrow in on a specific date and area of town. Councilor Carey suggested putting a policy in place once the staff starts to use AI. Administrator Reynolds said Assistant Firth and Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers will be attending a CCCMA conference in Estes Park July 24-26, 2024. The conference is an annual leadership training. Administrator Reynolds said he is working on an agreement with Ed Mooney for the town flag. The town would like to purchase more flags and possibly sell them at Burning Mountain Festival. Administrator Reynolds said he did approve a salary correction across the board for all staff which was budgeted for. He also said reviews for the three appointed positions are coming up and asked the council if they would like to change how the reviews are done. That discussion will be at the next council meeting. Administrator Reynolds said he agreed with Chief Burrows about the need for a code enforcement officer to help Planner Smith and himself with code enforcement issues. Administrator Reynolds said CDOT has requested to use portion of the town’s property by the green bridge for when CDOT starts the bridge replacement project.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said Administrative Assistant Michelle Huster is at Clerks Institute this week. This is her first year of three years required for institute. She said once Michelle returns to the office, she will debrief with her to see if she has questions and where more training is needed. Clerk Andis said Assistant Huster will attending HPC meetings by herself and would like for her to attend P&Z meetings and Council meetings. The purpose of that is to get Assistant Huster familiar and comfortable attending P&Z and council meetings if asked to. Clerk Andis said with the extra time between meetings Assistant Huster and herself have been able to go through several boxes in her office that were left by the prior town clerk.

Town Treasurer – Treasurer Ehlers said the finance department is back to a department of two. Treasurer Ehlers said she has received the audit, and it was “fair”. She said in about three weeks she will start preparing for the 2025 budget season.

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – Councilor Carey said P&Z met with R2 Development for their preliminary land use application. The application was approved.

Historic Preservation Commission – Councilor Hazelton said HPC discussed designating the cemetery as a historic landmark.

Climate and Environment Commission – Councilor Leland said CEC had participated in the Ice Cream Social and had a great turn out.

Senior Program – nothing to report

RFTA – unable to attend

AGNC – have not met

GCE – unable to attend

EAB – have not met

Detox – nothing to report

Council Comments

The council thanked everyone who helped and attended the Ice Cream Social it was a great event.

Councilor Carey said she has received several concerns about fire danger particularly with vacant lots that have not been maintained or had fire mitigation done.

Councilor Leland said a few years ago there was discussion about home resale (real estate) transfer tax might be worth looking into again. Administrator Reynolds said might look at increasing the mil levy. Councilor Leland said he had someone approach him regarding vehicles idling.

Items for Future Council Agenda

Councilor Leland said council should look into an idling ordinance.

Councilor Carey said council should look into traffic calming devices or stripping on high traffic streets.

Councilor Carey said council should relook at a wildlife ordinance at some point.

Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



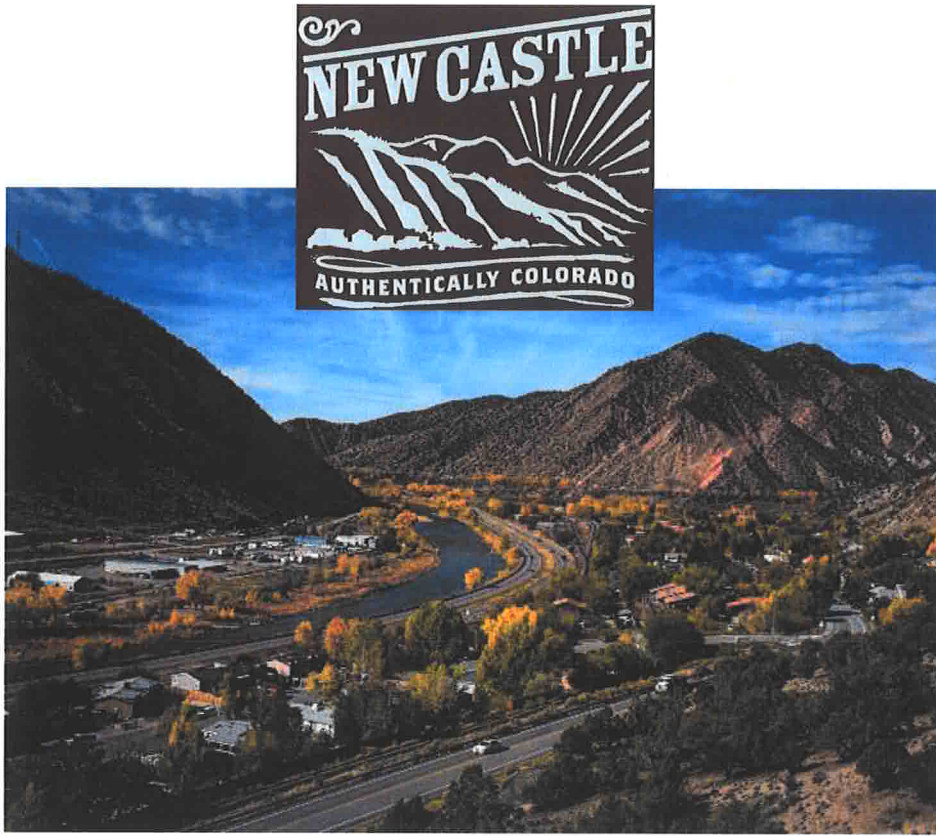
Mindy Andis

Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

Art B. Riddile

Mayor Art Riddile

Exhibit A
to
7.16.2024 Council Minutes



GATEWAY ROUNDABOUT
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



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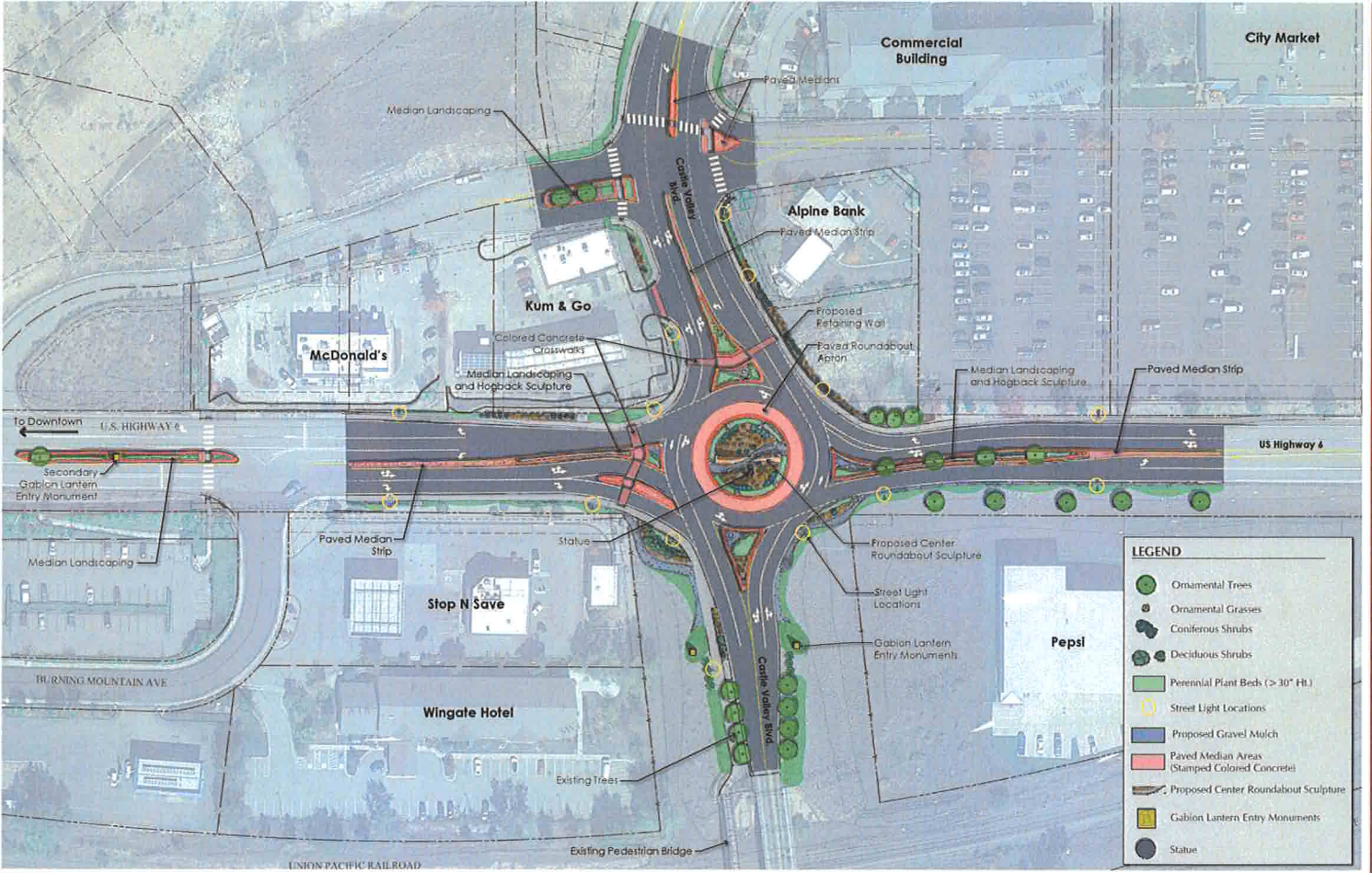
Address:
411 E. BEAUCRETEK BLVD., SUITE 101
AVON, CO 81629

Phone:
970.549.0237

June 11th, 2024

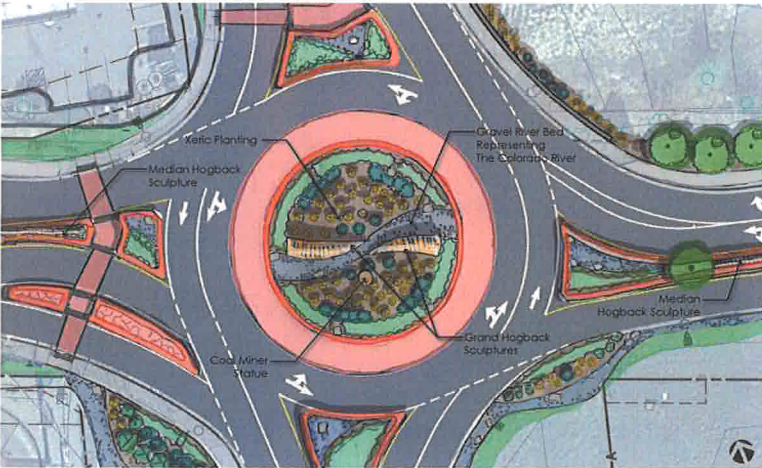
Page 4

Exhibit
to
Council Minutes





Aerial View of The Grand Hogback, and the "Gap" Through It Created by the Colorado River near New Castle.



Roundabout Enlargement Plan

Context

- The Town of New Castle is located near a unique geological formation called a monocline, also known as the Grand Hogback.
- The Grand Hogback is a massive ridge of varying inclined rock layers that consist of sandstone, shale, and coal. This unique geology is what forms the varying colors on the cliffs high above New Castle.
- The Colorado River cuts through the Grand Hogback at New Castle and forms a "Gap" in the Hogback.
- The presence of coal in this land form has helped shape the history of the town.

History

- The Town of New Castle began as a homestead in 1882 by Jasper Ward.
- The coal mining boom of the 1880's brought many new settlers to the area as New Castle became known for its high quality and soft coal.
- The railroad also played an important role in the development of the town as a means to transport coal to smelters in the Roaring Fork Valley.
- The Vulcan Mine was one of the larger coal mines and was located just south of the river from New Castle. The Vulcan mine was struck by two serious explosions that killed 86 men.
- Modern day New Castle has grown to a population of nearly 5,000 residents and has retained many of the historic downtown buildings.

Design Concept

- The core concept of the design is based on the prominent geological feature of the Grand Hogback. This feature is located due south of New Castle and extends approximately 90 miles from East to West across western Colorado.
- The Hogback feature is represented in the design of the roundabout and medians by a creating a long linear sculptural that meanders from East to West to create a unifying element in the landscape design.
- The linear sculpture is intended to represent the serrated ridge line of the Grand Hogback, with the center piece of the sculpture being located in the middle of the roundabout.
- The break in the Hogback sculpture at center of the roundabout is intended to portray the "Gap" where the Colorado River cuts through the Hogback. The river is graphically represented by decorative gravel meandering through the stone Hogback Sculptures.
- The coal mining history of New Castle is also honored in the design by placing a statue of a coal miner holding a lantern at the center of the roundabout.
- The Gobion Lantern entry structures have also been designed to reflect a mining aesthetic and utilize historic lantern style light fixtures.



Bird's Eye View of the Grand Hogback



View of Burning Mountain West of New Castle



1. View to north along the West side of Castle Valley Boulevard.



2. View of the intersection facing South.



3. View of the site facing East along the north sidewalk.



4. View of Hwy 6 facing West towards downtown New Castle.



5. View to the West along the South side of Hwy 6.



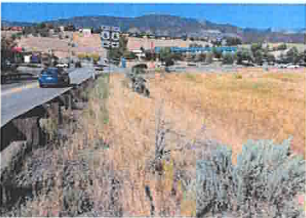
6. View facing North towards Kum & Go at the Southwest corner of the intersection.



7. View of existing pedestrian path facing South towards the pedestrian bridge.



8. View of pedestrian path facing North towards the intersection.



9. View to the north along the East side of Castle Valley Boulevard.



10. View to the North at existing intersection.



11. View to the West along the North side of Hwy. 6.



12. View to the South towards the intersection. Proposed retaining wall location along East side of the sidewalk.



Roundabout precedent with decorative river cobbles and xeric planting.



Flagstone slab structure and planting precedent.



Gabion structure precedent



Rocky Mountain Juniper



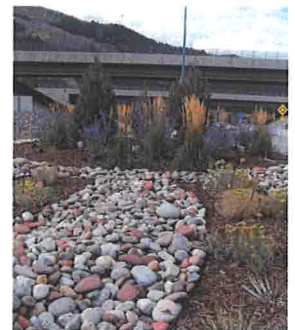
Crabapple Spring Snow



Roundabout precedent with Crabapple trees, Feather Reed Grass, and Red Yarrow.



Varied decorative gravel



Xeric Planting



Pinyon Pine



Red Twig Dogwood



Dwarf Blue Rabbit brush



Feather Reed Grass



Russian Sage



Red Yarrow

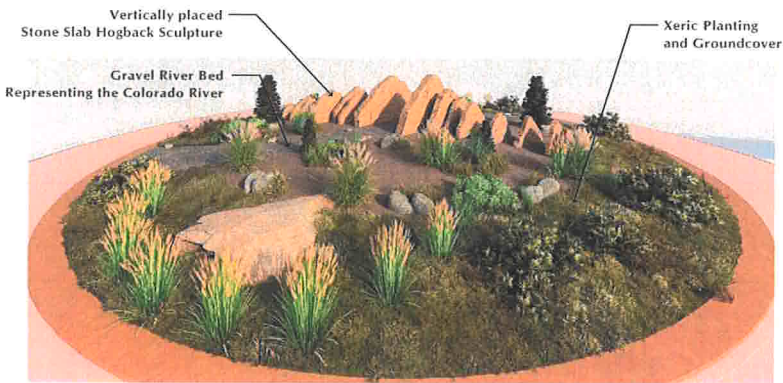


Soapweed Yucca



Silvermound Sage

Grand Hogback Roundabout Sculpture

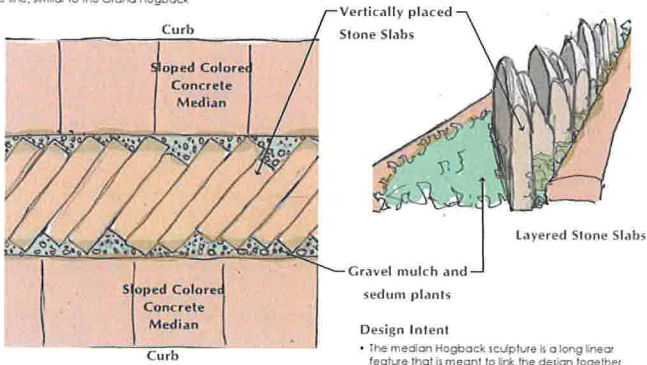


Design Intent

- A series of triangular shaped sandstone slabs are placed vertically along the East / West axis of the roundabout to form a ridge line and represent a likeness of the Grand Hogback.
- The stone slabs would be set at an angle to create visual interest and movement when viewed from the travel lanes and roundabout entrances.
- The stone slabs gradually become taller toward the center of the roundabout to create a high point.
- Decorative gravel and river cobble will meander between the two tallest slabs at the center of the roundabout as a symbolic representation of the Colorado River flowing through the "Gap" in the Grand Hogback at New Castle.

Stone Slab Median Hogback Sculpture

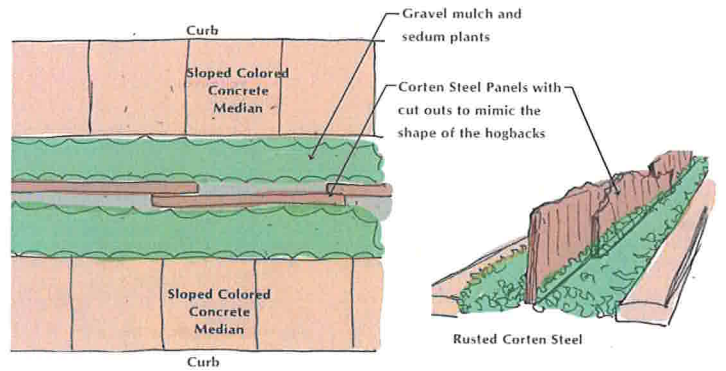
- This concept utilizes varying sizes of sandstone slabs, placed vertically to form the shape of a serrated ridge line, similar to the Grand Hogback

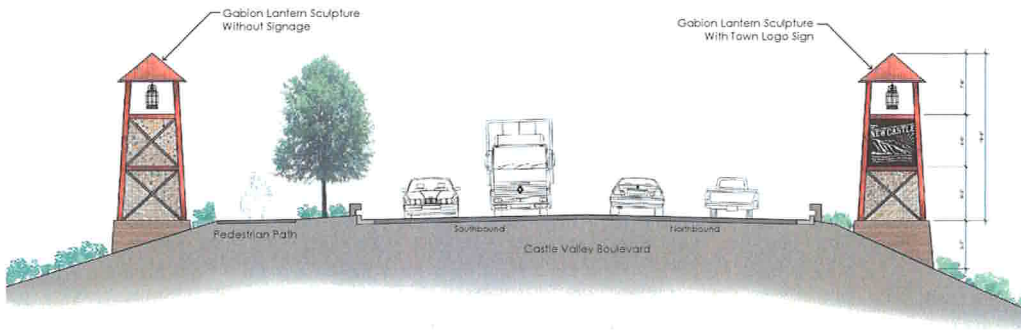


- Design Intent**
- The median Hogback sculpture is a long linear feature that is meant to link the design together from east and west by creating an identifiable feature on either side of the roundabout intersection and creating a build-up to the main feature of The Grand Hogback at the center of the roundabout.

Alternative Median Hogback Sculpture Concept

- This concept utilizes Corten Steel panels with cut outs to mimic the shape of the Grand Hogback as an alternative to stone.

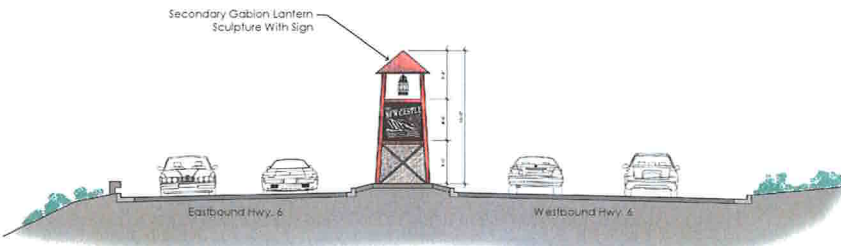




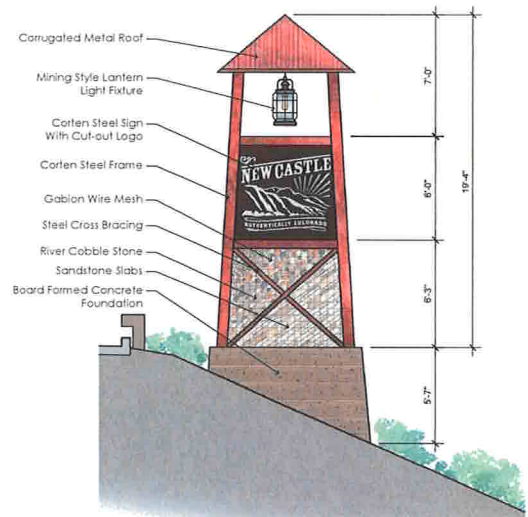
Town Entry Gateway Elevation
(Entering from I-70)

Design Intent

- The driving concept behind the lantern monuments is to create an identifiable and welcoming entry to town.
- The lantern hanging in the top of the structures are intended to light the way home for residents returning to town after work.
- The materials utilized in the construction of the entry monuments are intended to reflect a mining aesthetic by utilizing raw steel and cross bracing that will have a rusty finish when fully weathered.
- The gabion elements would be filled with varying native stone and cobble to reflect the geology of the area.
- The stone layers would be placed at an angle to represent the incline in the strata of the Grand Hogback, with larger sandstone slabs are depicting the back slope of the hogback.
- Smaller rocks and cobble are intended to represent for the eroded strata of the hogback and the river bed.
- A smaller scale Gabion Lantern Sculpture will be placed in the western most median to draw people towards downtown New Castle.



Secondary Entry Sign at Western Median Strip
(Intended to Serve as a Gateway to Downtown New Castle)



Main Entry Sign Elevation - Enlargement









